

*Pieces of Iowa's Past*, published by the Iowa State Capitol Tour Guides weekly during the legislative session, features historical facts about Iowa, the Capitol, and the early workings of state government. All historical publications are reproduced here with the actual spelling, punctuation, and grammar retained.

**March 2, 2011**

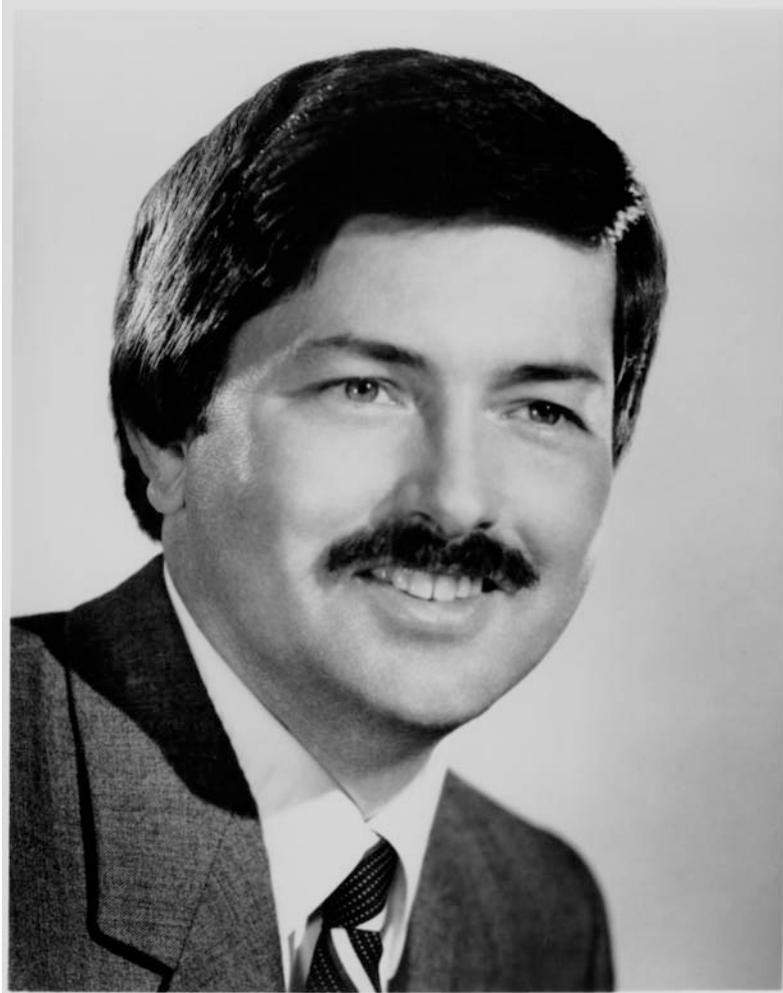
**THIS WEEK: Seventy-fourth Iowa General Assembly**

**BACKGROUND:** The Seventy-fourth General Assembly's first session began on January 14 and adjourned on May 12, 1991—a 119-day session.

There were 150 members in the legislature. In the Senate, there were 29 Democrats and 21 Republicans, following a special election. In the House of Representatives, there were 55 Democrats and 45 Republicans. The presiding officer in the Senate was no longer the Lieutenant Governor but elected from the body. The President of the Senate was Joseph J. Welsh. The Speaker of the House was Robert C. Arnould.

Governor Terry Branstad was inaugurated for his third term on January 18, 1991. His first inauguration was in 1983. At 36 years old, Branstad was the youngest governor ever elected in Iowa. Governor Branstad spent many years in Lake Mills but has been in the Des Moines area during the last several years.

The 1990 United States Census showed Iowa's population at 2,776,755. This was down more than 137,000 from the previous census.



**Governor Terry E. Branstad**

(b. November 17, 1946)

**(From the Senate and House Journals)**

**The Journal of the Senate**

Senate file 162: "A bill for an act relating to the use of topical external applications on horses and dogs engaged in racing." Senate Concurrent Resolution 3: "Urging the congress of the United States to propose an amendment to the constitution of the United States granting congress and the states the power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States."

A special guest introduced in the Senate was Janos Avar, the Washington correspondent for the *Hungarian Nation* magazine. Also introduced to the Senate were the deputy consultant general from Ireland, a member of the Irish Parliament, and Miss Shamrock from Emmetsburg.

### **The Journal of the House of Representatives**

House file 95: "A bill for an act including veterans of the Persian Gulf Conflict as veterans eligible to serve on county commissions of veterans affairs, to receive certain veterans' benefits, and to be eligible for a property tax exemption.

House file 53: "A bill for an act relating to the purchase of gasoline at self-service prices by certain disabled persons." On page 95 of the House journal, it is noted the Speaker's Page made \$4.25 per hour.

Included in the claims paid by the State of Iowa was \$29.99 paid to James Gesling for a jacket that was misplaced while he was a patient at Mt. Pleasant Mental Health Institute and \$59.99 paid to A.C. Rhoades for an electric razor that was thrown away by the Iowa Veterans Home personnel.



**The Persian Gulf Conflict (Oil well fires)**

The Kuwaiti oil fires were caused by Iraqi [military forces](#) setting fire to over 700 oil wells as part of a scorched earth policy while retreating from Kuwait in 1991 after conquering the country but being driven out by Coalition

military forces. The fires started in January and February 1991 and the last one was extinguished by November 1991.